

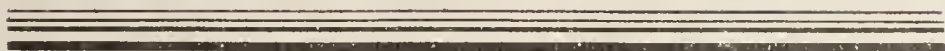
IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1945





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AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1945



IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillors J. G. ENTICOTT, J.P., *Chairman*
J. ADAMS (*resigned 11th June, 1945*)
E. BRIEW
A. BRIGGS
A. C. HARRISON (*elected 28th Aug. 1945*)
D. HESFORD
R. JAMES
A. J. KEAL
W. H. J. MARSHALL
F. J. MELVILLE, J.P.
J. McLEAN, J.P., C.A.,
Chairman of the Council.
E. OWEN, C.C.
R. SUTTON

OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Clerk of the Council—

EDWIN JONES, A.C.I.S.

Medical Officer of Health—

JOSEPH W. ROBERTS, L.S.A., Lond.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—

L. F. ATHERTON, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Clerk and Assistant—

R. G. HOPKINS (in National Service).

Clerical Assistants—

MRS. M. E. ROBERTS

Miss B. FARRAND

Ambulance Driver and Disinfector—

S. G. T. HILTON.

Foreman, Public Cleansing Service—

W. E. SEDDON.

Rat-Catcher—

J. GRANT.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Statute Acres)	4,717
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, June, 1945)	13,890
Population (Census 1931)	12,901
Number of Inhabited Houses (per Rate Book) ...	4,114
Rateable value	£85,656
Sum represented by a penny rate	£345
Total Rates in the £	15/6

2. VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...	120	122	242
Illegitimate ...	5	7	12
Stillbirths	4	3	7
Birth Rate ... ..	...	...	18.2
	Males	Females	Total
Deaths	80	51	131
Death-Rate ... ..	...	...	9.4
Deaths from Puerperal causes...	...	...	Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age ...	...	...	Ten
Deaths from Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria ...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	Twenty

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1945

●

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Irlam Urban District Council.*

I beg to present my annual report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year nor any causes of sickness or invalidity to merit special attention.

The Council's scheme for diphtheria immunisation has progressed satisfactorily: a good proportion of children immunised were of pre-school age. The success of the scheme, which started in 1941, is now being proved year by year—the average number of cases during the five years 1941-45 being 8 compared with 17.6 for the five year period 1936-40. Every effort is made by the staff to persuade parents to take their children for treatment to the immunisation clinics, but unnecessary additional work is sometimes caused either by parents failing to keep appointments made for them or withdrawing children before treatment is completed.

Towards the end of the year notification was received that the maternity section of the Park Hospital, Flixton, would open on the 1st January, 1946. This was welcome news. Some little time later, further notification was received to the effect that the accommodation available would be in full use until October, 1946. Additionally, medical practitioners have found it increasingly difficult to secure accommodation for maternity cases in other hospitals.

It is very evident to all who understand this problem that the maternity wards of the hospitals are taxed to capacity and further accommodation should be provided.

The needs of this district would best be served by the provision of a maternity home and representations to this effect have been made to the maternity and child welfare authority.

The general health of the district continued to be good.

JOSEPH W. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

IRLAM.

October, 1946.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

The county district of Irlam in Lancashire is roughly square in formation, with sides over three and a half miles long.

The district boundaries on the North march with those of Tyldesley, Worsley and Leigh, on the South with the Manchester Ship Canal, on the East with Eccles and on the West with the banks of the River Glaze.

A considerable area of the great Chat Moss comes within the district and, being unfit for building upon, is almost all under cultivation.

The residents are thus provided with an area quasi-rural in character, which makes a relieving contrast to the industrial nature of the district on its southern borders.

Irlam provides the usual material amenities for its residents in the form of drainage, gas and water mains, telephone and electric cables. The municipally-owned dwellings provide excellent accommodation for many working-class families, and parks and playing-fields are maintained in convenient situations for public use.

A variety of industries is carried on in the district. The following list is a brief summary:—

Steel and iron works, soap works, margarine and lard manufacturing, coal tips, tar works, wallpaper works, basket works, general engineering and market gardening.

No conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health were noted during the year.

POPULATION.

The resident population of Irlam estimated by the Registrar General in June, 1945, was 13,890, an increase of 989 over the 1931 Census figures.

The increase during the year of births over deaths was 123.

In addition to the resident population large numbers from outside journey daily to and from the various works in the district.

BIRTHS.

Boys 125 Girls 129 Total 254.

The total number of births belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 254.

This gave a birth rate of 18.2 per 1000 of the population, as against 21.7 for the previous year.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population for the whole of England and Wales for 1945 was 16.1.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were ten deaths of children under one year of age during 1945 (males 4, females 6).

The infantile death-rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales was 46.

The following table gives the infant mortality rate for this district during the past five years :—

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
70	34	29	23	39

DEATHS.

Males 80 Females 51 Total 131.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 99 but deducting 3 deaths of persons not usually resident in this district and adding 35 deaths of residents which occurred in other districts the corrected number was 131.

This gave a death-rate of 9.4 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 9.0 in 1944.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.4 per 1,000 of the total population.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND INQUESTS.

During the year there were seventeen deaths (12 male, 5 female) registered in which the causes of death were not certified by medical practitioners.

There were seven inquests held and the coroner's verdicts were as follows:—

Accidental	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Natural causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

CANCER (MALIGNANT DISEASE)

There were twenty deaths from cancer (13 males, 7 females), giving a rate of 1.43 per 1,000 of the population.

CLASSIFIED DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Localisation	1945
Tongue and Mouth	1
Pharynx	1
Oesophagus	4
Stomach	1
Respiratory Organs	2
Pancreas	2
Liver	1
Intestinal Tract	4
Generative Organs	4
Breast	4
Other or Unspecified Organs ...	
Total	20
Deaths from all causes	131

ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.

Twenty-seven deaths, giving a death-rate of 1.94 per 1,000 of the population.

RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

Nineteen deaths (bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases) giving a death-rate of 1.36 per 1,000.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The table below gives the incidence of notifiable infectious disease. There has been no serious epidemic, the number of cases approximating to the average for the previous five years.

Diphtheria antitoxin is available to all medical practitioners at the Public Health Office. Twenty-three 8,000 unit phials were distributed during the year.

Every case of diphtheria is carefully investigated to discover the source of infection, particularly amongst school children, and, whilst carriers are occasionally discovered, in the majority of cases the source of infection cannot be traced.

The number of notifications of acute primary and influenzal pneumonia must not be considered to indicate the true incidence of pneumonia. When comparing the number of cases notified with the deaths registered, it should be remembered that the Registrar General's classification includes deaths from all forms of pneumonia.

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	No. Notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	7	2	
Scarlet Fever	19	7	
Measles	70		
Whooping-Cough	3		
Dysentery	1		
Pneumonia	34	4	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	
Erysipelas	3	1	
Total	138	15	6

Disinfection was carried out as in previous years by spraying infected rooms with formalin solution and fumigating with vapour. Disinfectants are supplied free.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Regular sessions for immunisation treatment were held at the school medical centre, Longfield Lodge, Cadishead. The medical practitioners of the district attended according to rota and the clerical work, interviewing of parents and general administration were performed by a member of the health department's staff and one voluntary worker. The scheme worked well and I thank those responsible for its smooth efficiency.

No. of children immunised during the year 233
No. of children immunised since inception of scheme (1941) 2584

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table gives details of the bacteriological examination of specimens sent by medical practitioners in the district.

Diphtheria		Typhoid Fever		Scarlet Fever	
Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive
16	5	5	—	1	1

The examination of sputums for human tuberculosis are carried out at the laboratory of the district consultant tuberculosis officer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease are given in the following table :—

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-25	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
25-35	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
35-45	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	2	2	6	3	—	—
	9		4		9		—	

Twelve cases received sanatorium treatment during the year.

The notification of tuberculosis was satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take any action regarding cases of neglect or refusal to notify. All deaths from tuberculosis were previously notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

(a) INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN SMALLPOX.

The scheme submitted to the Minister of Health by the Lancashire County Council under section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of adequate hospital accommodation in connexion with the treatment of infectious diseases in the county, provides that for infectious disease other than smallpox, Irlam should be grouped with the Boroughs of Stretford and Eccles, and the Urban Districts of Farnworth and Urnston; these authorities constituting Area XXV of the county scheme. The minimum number of beds to be provided for the area is 110, and the Urban District Council is responsible for the reservation of 10 of this number.

The Minister's approval to the County Scheme was received in February, 1938, and in May, 1938, an agreement was completed between the Salford Corporation and the authorities concerned for the treatment of patients at the Ladywell Sanatorium.

(b) SMALLPOX.

For the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the treatment of smallpox, the County Scheme includes Irlam in the Area XIV along with the Borough of Eccles, and six beds are required to be reserved for the two authorities.

Several joint meetings were held between representatives of Eccles and Irlam in 1938-39 with a view to the reservation of six beds at Salford Corporation's smallpox hospital, Drinkwater Park. These negotiations were adjourned at the outbreak of war and will no doubt, be resumed at the first convenient opportunity.

Pending satisfactory completion of the new scheme the Urban Council remains a party to a special agreement with Manchester Corporation for the treatment of smallpox cases at Clayton Hospital.

(c) GENERAL.

For general purposes the hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Eccles were utilised.

The Public Assistance hospitals for the area are at Patricroft and Flixton.

There is no institutional provision in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children.

No tuberculosis dispensaries or clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases are provided in the district.

The Council makes annual contributions to the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities and the Eccles Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) Infectious cases are removed in the motor ambulances provided by the Salford Corporation.

(b) An ambulance service provided and maintained by the Council is available day and night, for the removal of cases of accident or sudden illness, and by arrangement for cases requiring hospital or surgical treatment. The service was adequate. Statistical information as to the use of the Council's service is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

MORTUARY

Seven bodies were brought into the mortuary during the year, (residents 6, non-residents 1).

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following have been adopted by the Council :—

ACT	Date of Adoption
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (part 3)	7th Oct., 1896
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890...	... 20th Sept., 1896
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 4, 6 and Section 95)	... 24th Oct., 1910
Private Street Works Act, 1892	... 2nd Mar., 1925
Public Health Act, 1925, (sections 21, 22)	... 26th June, 1926

BYE-LAWS

With respect to Nuisances	... 6th Sept., 1922
With respect to New Buildings, etc.	... 20th Sept., 1926
With respect to Parks & Pleasure Grounds	... 5th April, 1927
Respecting the Trade of Fish Frier, made under the Islam (Offensive Trade) Confirmation Order, 1927	... 5th Sept., 1927

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Through the local District Nursing Association the services of a nurse are available for general nursing. The Association is entirely voluntary.

There is no employment of (or subsidy to) practising midwives in the district by the Council. The Midwives Act is administered by the Lancashire County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

This work is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There are two clinics in the district, and sessions were held once a week throughout the year on Wednesdays. Good attendances were maintained.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No maternal deaths were notified in this area during 1945.

Enquiries respecting maternal deaths in this district are made by the County Medical Officer of Health.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the district are visited at regular intervals by the County Council inspecting staff, and, in addition, your local officials make periodical inspections with regard to sanitary arrangements generally.

TABLE I

IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death for the Year 1945. Classified under the Headings of the Abridged List of Causes.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	3	9
Influenza	—	1	1
Ac. inf. enceph.	1	—	1
Cancer	13	7	20
Diabetes	—	2	2
Inter. cran. vas. lesions	10	7	17
Heart disease	18	9	27
Other dis. circul. system	1	1	2
Bronchitis	6	6	12
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Other dis. respiratory system	—	1	1
Ulcer: stomach or duod.	2	1	3
Other digestive diseases	1	2	3
Nephritis	3	1	4
Prem. birth	2	2	4
Con. mal. premature, etc.	—	2	2
Suicide	3	—	3
Violence	2	1	3
All other causes	8	3	11
Totals	80	51	131

TABLE II
IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS of WHOLE DISTRICT for 1945 and Previous Years

Year	Births				Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District				
	Population of Each Year	M	F.	Total	Rate	Of Non-Residents Registered in the District		Of Residents Registered outside the District	Under 1 yr of Age		At all Ages		
						No	Rate		Number	Rate per 1000 Births	Number	Rate	
1941	14,090	110	102	212	15.0	75	5.3	2	37	15	70	110	7.8
1942	13,840	98	108	206	14.6	102	7.2	4	37	7	34	135	9.7
1943	13,730	128	139	267	19.4	88	6.3	4	47	8	29	131	9.5
1944	13,820	139	161	300	21.7	95	6.9	2	32	7	23	125	9.0
1945	13,800	125	129	254	18.2	99	7.1	3	35	10	39	131	9.4

Area of District ... 4,717 statute acres.

Population (census 1931) ... 12,901

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1945

●

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Irlam Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and circumstances of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

No noteworthy sanitary improvements have been made during the period, but it is hoped that with the war finished, the real work of the health services will quickly come to the fore again after giving way for so long to the emergency services.

Looking back over the last six years one may perhaps be permitted some small measure of pride at the way in which Local Government as a whole undertook and carried so well the additional burdens of Civil Defence whilst at the same time quietly pursuing its own legitimate work, always made doubly difficult by the scarcities of almost everything necessary for its proper functioning. Those dark days are over and we look forward to the times ahead when Councils may once more plan and work for the betterment of the community.

The immediate and most urgent problem facing the Council towards the end of 1945 was the shortage of houses. In 1938, overcrowding in the district was negligible and there were empty houses available. The interregnum saw a complete change in the situation : every habitable dwelling became occupied and indeed some regarded as unfit for habitation were pressed into use too. Cases of overcrowding soon came to notice. These were reported to the appropriate committees, but little could be done in the matter because the only solution to the problem was—more houses.

Several cases of statutory overcrowding were relieved during the year, but such cases do not constitute the whole of the problem for there are many houses in which two or more families are living, which were not designed for such a purpose. The majority of these houses are not legally overcrowded but the unfortunate families dwelling therein live at the best but a makeshift existence and the young growing children know only an atmosphere of domestic desuetude and strife ; two housewives and one sink do not make for harmony and accord, however close the relationship or good the intentions.

This, then, is the problem. It is well-known to members and officers of the Council, but it will have to be told and considered again and again before it is satisfactorily solved by providing a house for every family.

The repair of existing houses is a further problem. In this connection work proceeded slowly but on the whole satisfactorily throughout the year. Owners were asked to execute only minimum repairs necessary to keep property in habitable condition. On four occasions it was necessary to serve statutory notices and these were duly complied with.

As in previous years considerable time and attention were given to the supervision of the district's food supplies, but no statutory action was necessary to secure the standards required.

Public cleansing work proceeded satisfactorily, no complaints being received concerning this service.

A severe infestation of eriekets occurred during the summer months at the sewage works and spread to the Council's housing estate on the Victory site causing considerable nuisance and annoyance to the tenants. Disinfestation work was undertaken by the Public Health Department, the nuisance being satisfactorily abated.

The Public Health Committee considered post-war plans for the control and abatement of industrial nuisances. They gave support to the National Smoke Abatement Society's resolution asking that local authorities who control the re-development of land for industrial purposes will ensure that leases of occupiers will contain provisions that all installations of solid fuel-burning plant will be efficient and as smokeless as possible and that plans of such installations should be submitted to local authorities for approval before use. The Committee would go further and informed the National Society they were, from experience, of opinion that the resolution should also apply to installations burning liquid-fuel.

The Committee also considered the question of industrial waste tips and nuisances arising therefrom. There are three large tips in the area and a fourth of massive proportions immediately without the district boundary. The powers contained in the Public Health Acts appear to be weak concerning these matters inasmuch as no authority is given for controlling the situation and operation of such tips. The Committee was prepared to recognise that industry must have some accommodation for the disposal of its waste materials but felt that insufficient care and attention had been given in the past to measures necessary to prevent nuisance either in actual fact or on aesthetic grounds. The Committee made and continue to make every endeavour to abate existing industrial nuisances, and to this end have made representations and had interviews with works' managements. In addition, to secure adequate preventive means for the future, they transmitted a resolution to the Council's Housing and Town Planning Committee recommending

that a clause be inserted in the district's planning scheme to control the height, construction and location of tips. The recommendation was adopted.

The ambulance service functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. No complaints were received. 619 cases were dealt with—the greatest number in any one year since the service began—and I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the personnel whose efficiency and understanding treatment of patients is well-known in the district.

As in previous years there has again been close co-operation with all departments of the Council and I take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the friendly and valuable help of the officials and staff.

Yours obediently,

L. F. ATHERTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the Urban District is served by the mains of the Manchester Corporation; only nine properties in outlying parts being supplied by the Warrington Corporation. Supplies were constant and of good quality. No houses are supplied by stand-pipe.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Frequent inspections of rivers and streams were made during the year and close co-operation was maintained with the land drainage department of the County Council whose officers did considerable good work in connection with the cleaning and straightening of overgrown watercourses.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Council's housing estates and a large part of the Cadishead area are drained on the separate system—the remainder of the district on the combined method.

Apart from a few isolated houses on the moss area, all properties are connected to the sewers.

Sewers and drains are regularly flushed.

The large sewer follows the course of the main road, and is provided with two storm-water overflows, (Platts Brook and Irlam Brow).

The Activated Sludge system is the method employed at the Council's sewage works, and a satisfactory effluent has been maintained. Frequent samples were taken by the inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Rivers Committee.

The sewage is brought to the works by gravitation, and, on arrival, passes through detritus chambers and a preliminary tank, after which it is screened. Thence over a rectangular weir it flows into the mixing chamber where it is intimately mixed with the sludge from the re-aeration tanks. The mixture then passes into the aeration units and from these flows to the settlement tanks. Here, the sludge settles to the bottom, leaving the clear effluent to pass into the feed channels and eventually into the river Glaze. The sludge is forced into the sludge channel which leads to the re-aeration tanks, where, after a period of re-aeration, it again is mixed with the incoming sewage in the mixing chamber. Thus the continuous circulation is maintained.

The surplus sludge is run into a lagoon and, after digestion is run off and dried on specially prepared beds. The sludge is regularly removed.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The following approximate particulars are given of conveniences in the district at the end of 1945 :—

No. of fresh-water closets	...	...	...	...	4,825
No. of waste-water closets	...	...	...	...	21
No. of privy-middens	...	...	...	...	20
No. of pail-closets	...	...	...	...	82

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Public Health Committee devoted considerable time during the year to the problems of industrial nuisance, and gave particular attention to smoke abatement work.

Excessive black smoke and the deposits resulting therefrom are the most prevalent and persistent nuisances in the district. Much work has been done in the past in an endeavour to secure a cleaner atmosphere ; improvements have been made in the boiler-houses of factories ; stokers have taken courses of instruction ; but black smoke continues to pour from the factory chimneys.

The exigencies of war were responsible for lowering the carefully and laboriously built standards designed to abate the black smoke nuisance, with the result that in the immediate post-war period it is difficult to begin to regain former efficiency. Fuel is inferior and scarcity leads to the use of unsuitable substitutes ; labour is unskilled and un-practised in the methods of smoke prevention and works' managements have many other problems which they often regard as more urgent than the smoke pall.

These problems are before all local authorities in industrial areas and great difficulties are experienced in performing their statutory duties.

The action taken by the Public Health Committee in the period under review was, briefly summarised :

1. To press factory managements to continue their efforts to reduce black smoke.
2. To renew the Council's application to the Ministry of Health for sanction to make a byelaw to control the emission of black smoke.

One factory installed a CO₂ recorder together with a visible smoke density indicator. The Ministry's sanction to the making of a smoke abatement bye-law had not been given at the end of the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The Council has adopted bye-laws for the regulation of the trade of fish-fryer, and these, generally have been complied with.

The premises where fish-frying is carried on were visited regularly.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS

During the year, the following visits were made :—

Nature of Inspections					Number of Visits
General sanitary work (Public Health and Housing Acts)					346
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	37
Food shops and premises	...	...	...	...	71
Factories and other premises	...	...	...	...	53
Public cleansing service	...	...	...	...	78
Re infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	40
Re Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	37

COMPLAINTS

Sixty-seven complaints were received and investigated during the year. The majority concerned housing defects and were satisfactorily dealt with under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :— Nil.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1)	
(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	192
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	346
(2)	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	20
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	20
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	181
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	154
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner ...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	5
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	12
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	12½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
() (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	19½

Three cases of overcrowding in Council houses have been relieved during the year.

NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

Ninety-four preliminary and 4 statutory notices were served during the year. The following statement gives details of the work carried out under the supervision of the Department :—

HOUSING

Defective house walls repaired	...	...	...	16
Gutters and downspouts repaired	...	...	...	5
Windows and sash cords repaired	...	...	...	7
Ceilings and walls re-plastered	...	...	...	14
Leaking roofs repaired	...	...	...	8
New sinks provided	...	...	...	1
Defective floors reconstructed	...	...	...	10
Dangerous firegrates rebuilt	...	...	...	4
Yard surfaces reconstructed	...	...	...	4
Yard walls repaired	...	...	...	3
Hot water circulatory systems provided or repaired	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	14

DRAINAGE

Choked drains cleansed	...	...	...	24
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	5
Sink waste-pipes repaired...	...	...	...	4

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

New watercloset basins fixed	...	...	...	4
Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	9
Soilpipe repaired	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	8

REFUSE RECEPTACLES, ETC.

New dustbins provided (under notices and at private request)	328
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MISCELLANEOUS

Accumulations removed	4
Rat infestations abated	27
Dirty houses cleansed	4
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	2

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Three privately-owned properties were treated with hydrocyanic acid gas ; the work being done by a contractor. The Council does not undertake disinfestation work.

Frequent visits of inspection were made by the sanitary inspector and housing estates manager in connection with the supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation of Council properties. No Council Houses required fumigation during the year.

FACTORIES AND OTHER PREMISES.

By resolution of the Council the sanitary inspector has been authorised to enter and examine any premises and make inspections within the Urban District which the Council have the power to examine or make under or pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1 to 8, 54, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, and 157 (Third Schedule) of the Factories Act, 1937.

Under Part I of the Act, the provisions as to Section 7, i.e., sanitary accommodation and the Sanitary Accommodation Order, are enforced in all factories, whether they have power or not, by the Local Authority. In addition the Local Authority administers the provisions regarding overcrowding, temperature and ventilation of workrooms and drainage of floors.

There were 40 factories in the district at the end of the year, and particulars of defects found and remedied are given in the following table :

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	9	9	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :				
Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective ...	5	5	-	-
Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other Offences ...	2	2	-	-
Total ...	16	16	-	-

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

The administration of these Acts and Orders necessitated frequent visits to registered premises, and in addition numerous inspections were made of vehicles used for the transport and delivery of milk.

There were four cowkeepers with registered premises in the district and these were generally well-maintained.

The following table gives details of samples of milk sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

		No. Samples	No. Satisfactory
For detection of Tuberculosis ...	...	16	16
For bacterial count and B. coli. ...	...	18	11
For Accredited standard ...	...	1	1
For Pasteurised standard ...	...	2	1
Totals ...	...	37	29

All unsatisfactory samples were of milk supplies produced outside the urban district, and copies of the laboratory reports were transmitted to the sanitary officers of the areas concerned.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, one dairyman was granted a licence to pasteurise milk, and dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) were issued as follows :—

Distribution of "Accredited " milk...	...	...	1
Distribution of pasteurised milk ...	...	...	1

MEAT, ETC.

There are no registered or licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Butchers obtain their supplies from Manchester. Frequent visits were made to the shops and, almost invariably, the meat exposed for sale was found to be of good quality.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES

These were visited regularly and it was not found necessary to take any statutory action.

FOOD ADULTERATION

The administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, is carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

FOOD INSPECTION.

In no case was it necessary to seize diseased or unsound food. The undermentioned, which on examination were found to be unfit for food, were surrendered :

	lbs.
Pork	328
Beef	34
Bacon	26
Butter	71
Margarine	230
Cheese	21
Dried peas	56
Corned pork	30
Corned beef	12
Luncheon meat	19
Jam	25
Offals	7
Eggs doz.	4
Carrots cwt.	43½

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

The provisions of the Act respecting heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation were generally found to be satisfactorily complied with.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.

The service continued satisfactorily during the year ; no serious complaints being received.

Premises with movable refuse receptacles were visited every nine to twelve days ; those with fixed receptacles at longer intervals. During the war years the periods between visits varied considerably due to shortage of labour and the additional work entailed by salvage operations. At the end of the year it was hoped that the service would before long be able to return to the pre-war standard of the weekly removal of all house refuse.

The general planning and layout of the district necessitates the bulk of collection work being done in the front streets ; consequently long portages are inevitable. The haulage distances vary in different parts of the district from one half to three and a half miles.

Two S.D. freighters each of ten cubic yards capacity are used for refuse collection work ; one vehicle (rear-loading) was purchased in 1935 and has given excellent service.

The bulk of refuse was disposed of at the salvage and incineration plant situated at the Council's sewage works, the remainder by tipping.

The surveyor is responsible for the supervision of refuse disposal, the sanitary inspector for collection services and salvage sales.

The Council's salvage operations proceeded on the whole satisfactorily. No spectacular feats of salvage output can be claimed for the district during any of the war years ; but a steady average has been maintained, and as was the experience of most local authorities, salvage collections dropped considerably during 1945. Attempts were made to revive the public interest, but little success attended the efforts.

PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1928.

23 licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year. All premises were properly maintained.

RODENT CONTROL.

The disinfection service established at the direction of the Ministry of Food in 1943, continued to operate satisfactorily.

Premises were treated in accordance with the Ministry's methods and good results were obtained.

The district's sewers were thoroughly treated in 1944 and the success of that operation is judged to be largely responsible for the few complaints of rat infestation received during 1945.

One full-time rat catcher is employed and whilst his duties in dealing with sporadic infestations were reduced considerably, his time was fully occupied with contract work and the re-inspection of treated premises.

At the end of the year 19 contracts were in operation, ranging in value from £2 to £70 per annum.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

619 calls for an ambulance were received as a result of accident or illness, and the following particulars are given of the service rendered during the year :—

Cases Attended—	Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	90
	Other cases	...	...	...	...	...	529
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	619

Journeys were made to and from the undermentioned hospital

	To	From	Total
Salford Royal Hospital ...	95	20	125
Manchester Royal Infirmary	1	1	2
Stretford Memorial Hospital ...	11	16	26
Green Lane Institution ...	15	1	16
Ancoats Hospital, Manchester	6	1	10
Manchester Northern Hospital	1	9	10
St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester	15	25	40
Eccles and Patricroft Hospital	33	18	51
Christie's Hospital, Manchester	8	1	9
Hope Hospital, Salford ...	63	18	81
Warren Hill Nursing Home, Woolston	9	1	10
Pendlebury Children's Hospital	1	—	1
Abbotsfield Hospital, Flixton	82	59	141
Manchester Eye Hospital ...	12	1	13
Cleveland Nursing Home ...	6	—	6
Manchester Ear Hospital ...	1	—	1
Jericho Hospital, Bury ...	—	1	1
Liverpool Southern Hospital	1	1	2
Victoria Park Hospital, Warrington	1	1	2
Barnes Convalescent Home, Cheadle	—	1	1
Gartside St. Hospital, Manchester	3	—	3
Warrington Borough General Hospital	2	—	2
Warrington Infirmary ...	1	—	1
	376	188	564
To or from premises other than hospitals			55
TOTALS	376	188	619

The total mileage recorded was 11,377 an average of 18.38 miles per journey.

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